

REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTMAS

Unaccompanied Handbell Tree Solo

VENI EMMANUEL,
ES IST EIN ROS,
& CRANHAM
arr. Heather Nicholson

2 Octaves
Handbells Used: 12*



PERFORMANCE NOTES:

* Eb5 and Ab5 handbells are used for "positioning" only.

Trees are listed in chart from closest to the ringer to farthest from the ringer.

C5, Eb5, A5, and Ab5 castings point to the ringer's left.

Thoughtfully, unhurried

The main musical score consists of 35 measures, numbered 1 through 35. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The piece is marked 'Thoughtfully, unhurried'. Dynamics include *mp* (measures 2, 7, 11, 13, 19, 27), *mf* (measures 12, 18, 35), and *p* (measure 26). There are various musical notations including slurs, accents, and fermatas. Measure 14 has a 3/4 time signature change, and measure 29 has a 3/2 time signature change. Measure 35 ends with a fermata.

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The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four lines of music, each containing measures 36-41, 42-47, 48-53, and 54-58 respectively. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, along with rests and dynamic markings. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'copyrighted material to purchase' is overlaid across the score. The dynamic markings are *p* (piano) at measure 43, *mf* (mezzo-forte) at measure 51, and *rit.* (ritardando) at measure 57. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 58.

PERFORMANCE SUGGESTIONS:

This piece is quiet and reflective. It includes *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*, and *In the Bleak Midwinter*. It would be lovely if performed in a candlelit church, as the snow falls quietly outside. It is meant to provide a moment of hushed tranquility in the busyness of the holidays, and a time to reflect on the truth of Christmas.

It is not hurried. Draw out pauses at the end of each phrase, and selectively damp bells as desired. Do not damp too much. Push the speed forward at the beginnings of phrases and pull the speed back at the ends of phrases. "Feel" the words of each carol.

Four mallets are needed. Use two harder mallets (one in each hand) for melody notes. Use two softer mallets (one in each hand, along with the hard mallets) for playing harmony notes, for selective damping, and to play the A4 and C5 at the end of the piece.